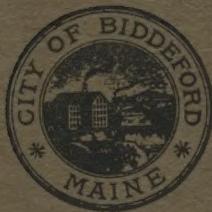


DEDICATION PROGRAM
OF THE
BIDDEFORD HIGH SCHOOL
ANNEX

BIDDEFORD, MAINE

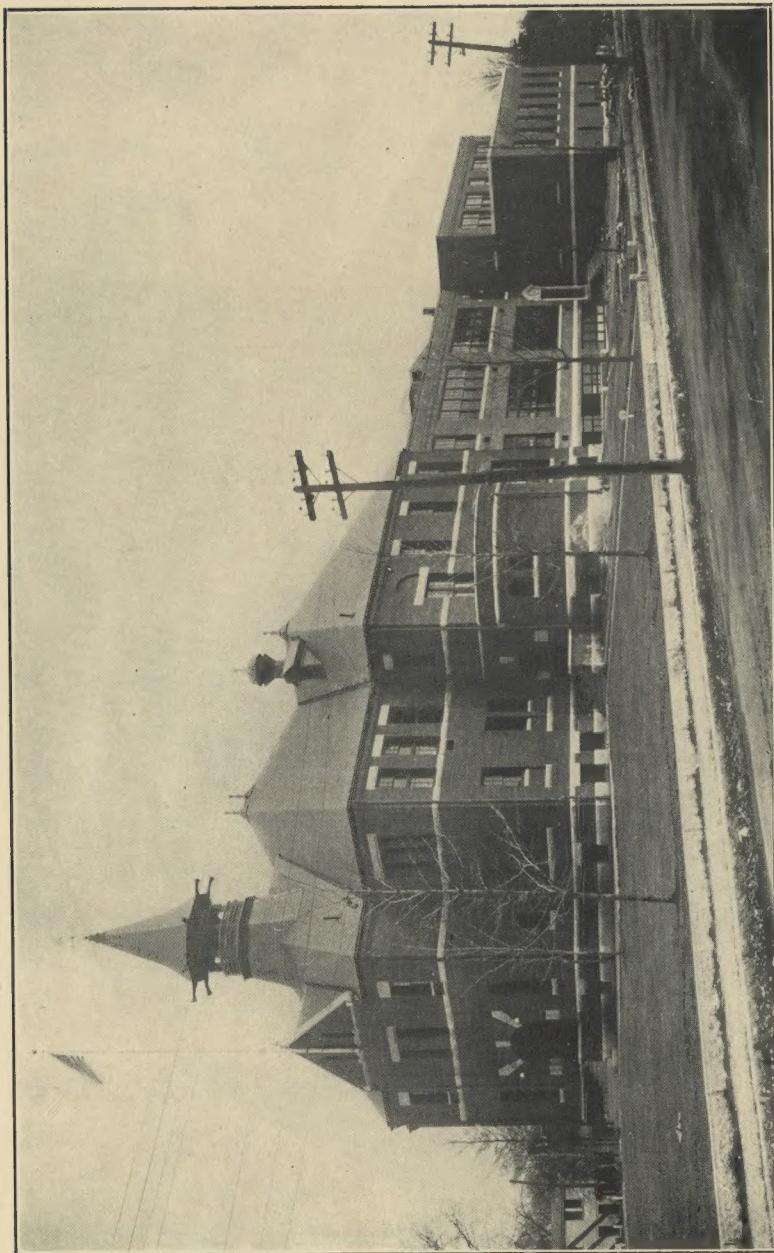
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX



DEDICATION
OF THE
BIDDEFORD HIGH SCHOOL
ANNEX
BIDDEFORD, MAINE

Erected by the City for the free
education of youth in industry,
science, art and letters. : : :

MARCH FIFTH
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX



The Biddeford High School

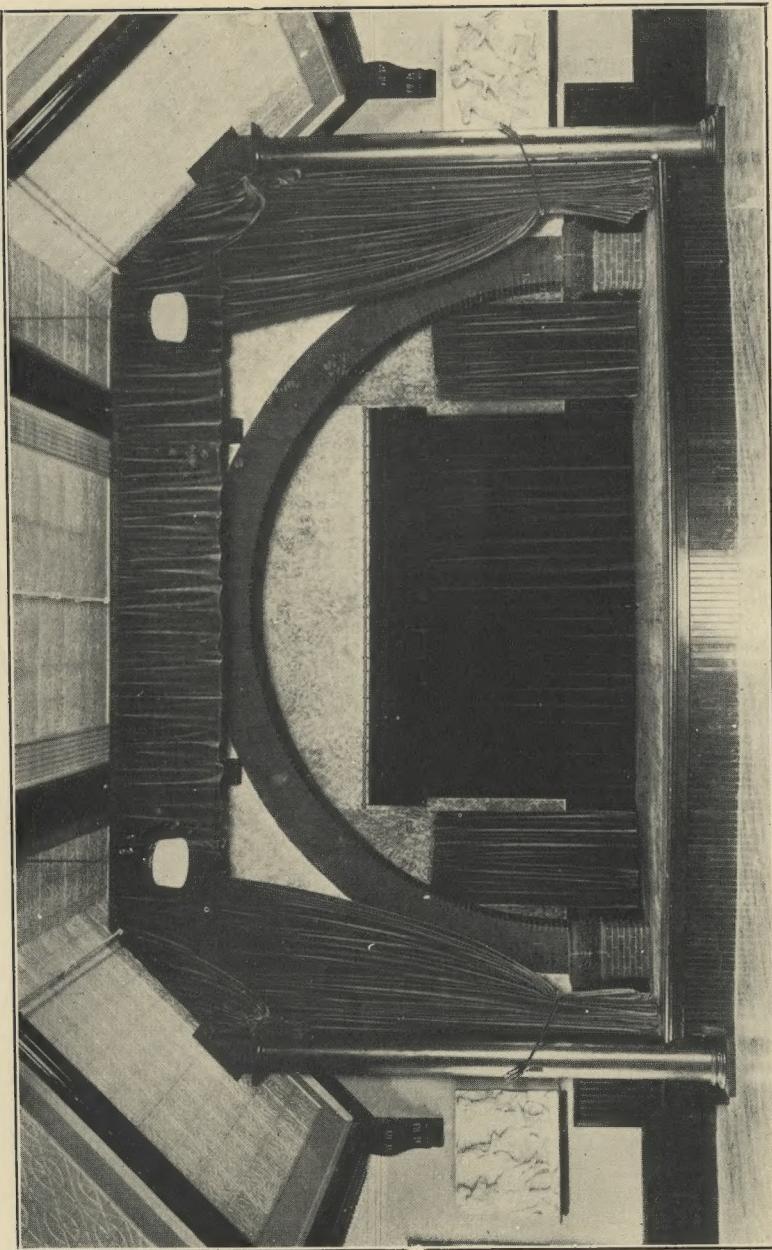
Krokyn & Browne, Architects, Boston, Mass.

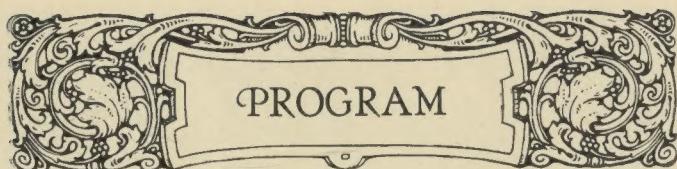
J. A. Benoit, Contractor, Biddeford, Me.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

MAYOR EDWARD H. DRAPEAU, *Chairman*
THOMAS F. FLANAGAN
JOHN W. ROBINSON
ANDRE B. PAINCHAUD
MAUD C. KENDALL
SUPT. CHESTER A. WEED, *Secretary*
PRIN. HARRY H. BURNHAM
BENJAMIN GOODIER, *Chairman Board of Aldermen*
CARL R. LOWELL
ULRIC CABANA
FRED VALLIERE
ELMER O. DAVIS
JEROME ST. OURS
JAMES J. NEILON

Assembly Hall





PROGRAM

ORCHESTRA

PRAYER

Rev. Royal Brown

ADDRESS by Mayor E. H. Drapeau, Chairman

MR. BENJAMIN GOODIER, Chairman of the Board
of Aldermen (presentation of key)

ACCEPTANCE

Mayor Drapeau

ORCHESTRA

“A DEBT PAID”

Principal Burnham

REMARKS

Superintendent Weed

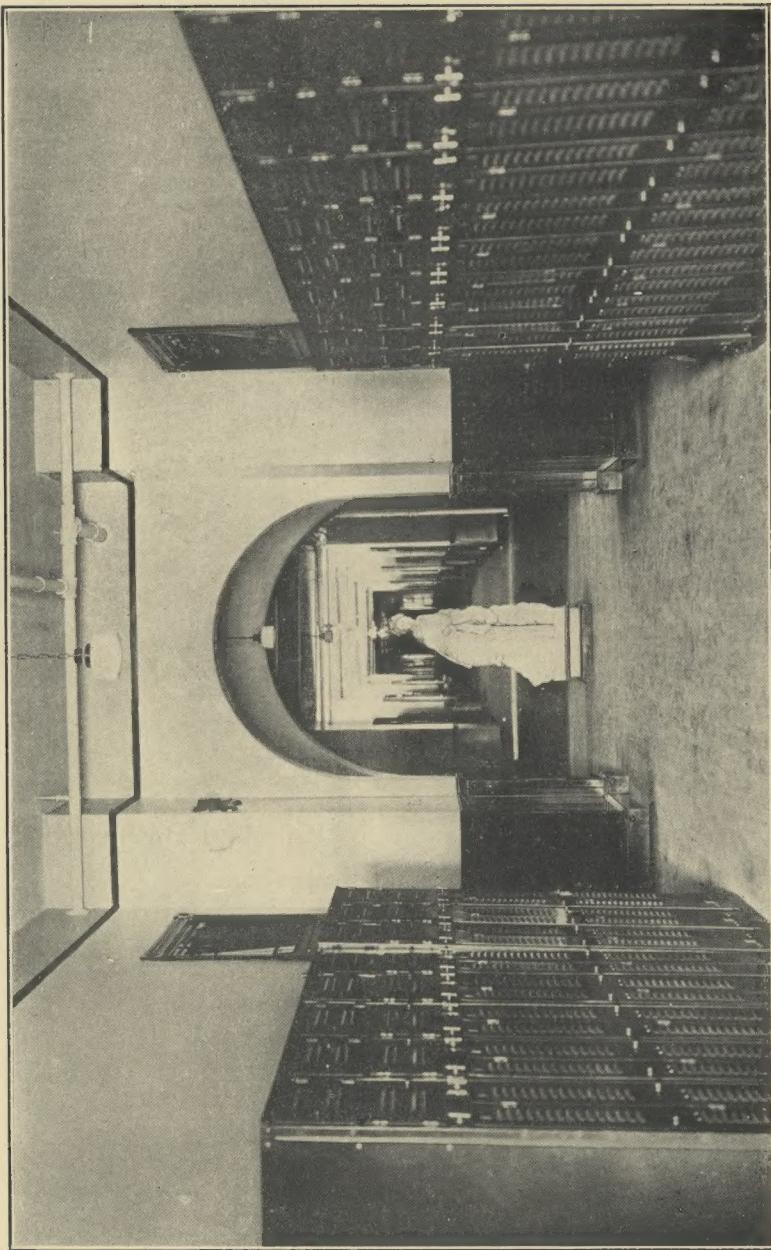
ORCHESTRA

ADDRESS

Dr. A. O. Thomas
State Commissioner of Education

ORCHESTRA

Corridor



THE NEW AND THE OLD

A comprehensive history of education in Maine from the earliest authentic records to and including the school year 1876 may be found in the State School Report for the year 1876. Since then the public school system of Maine has consisted of three distinct classes of schools; the common schools, the free high schools, and the normal schools.

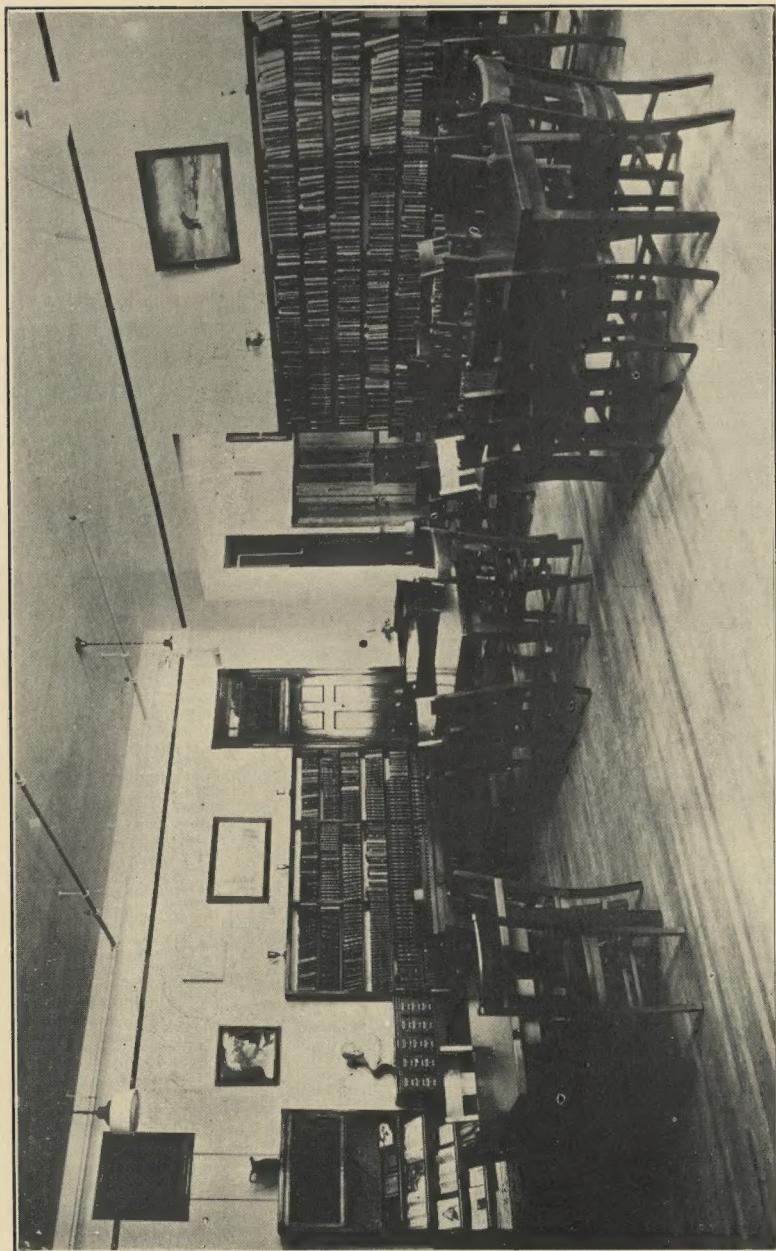
The common schools were established for the purpose of providing an elementary education for all the children of the state. By law, their maintenance was made obligatory upon all cities, towns and plantations.

The free high school system of Maine was established to furnish instruction in secondary school studies, at public expense.

Prior to the advent of the High School secondary education was dependent upon the academies, the first of which in New England was the old Boston Latin School, founded by Rev. John Cotton in 1635.

In 1791 the first academy in Maine was founded at Hallowell, later known as the Hallowell Classical and Scientific Academy.

In 1811 Saco Academy now Thornton Academy was founded and Biddeford pupils in quest of higher education enrolled in this institution.



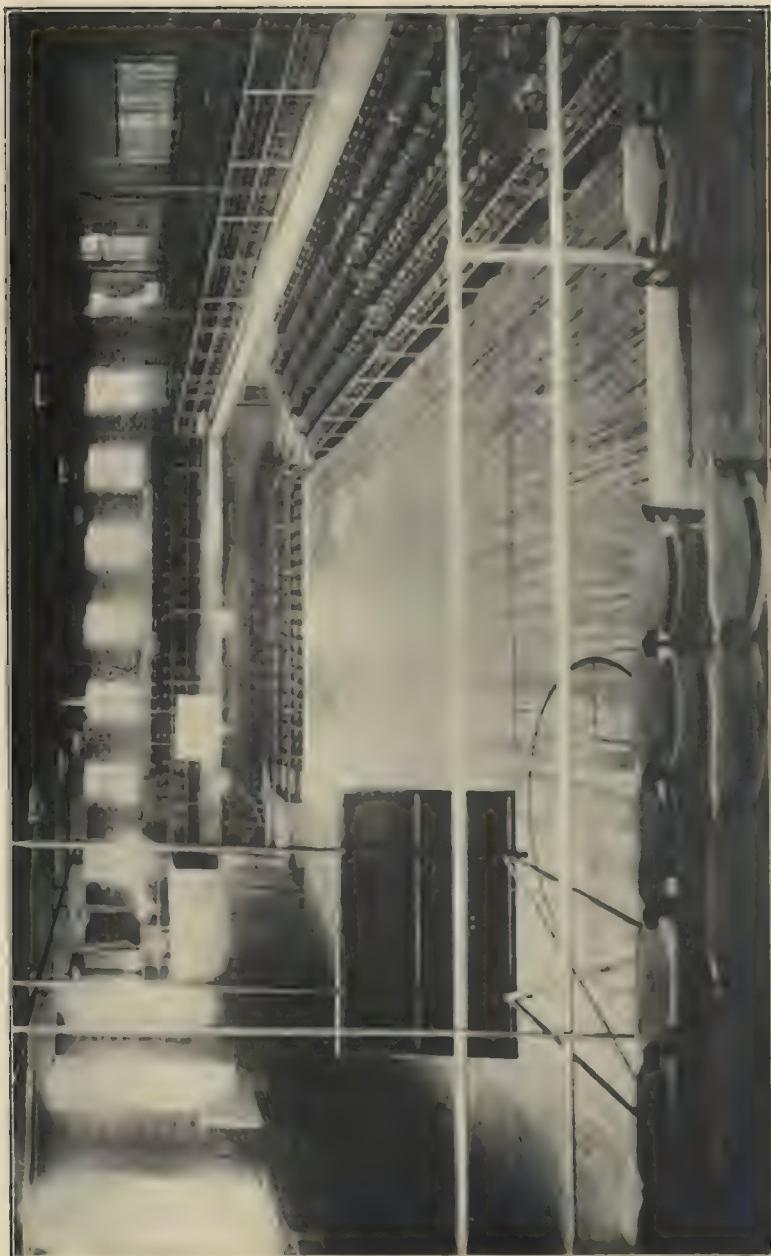
Library

The destruction by fire of Saco Academy seems to have been the indirect reason for building in 1848 the first Biddeford High School, the present Washington Street School.

The new High School of which this structure now forms a part was built in 1889 and was deemed sufficiently commodious to accommodate the increasing demands for secondary education. When completed and equipped it was considered one of the finest in the state. In 1893 this building was partly destroyed by fire causing the loss of a fine library and valuable documents. It was reconstructed along the same lines and ready for occupancy during the following year.

The crowded condition of the high school some few years ago made it apparent that this building had outlived its usefulness in its attempt to adequately house the student body and offer the class of instruction in secondary education required by the State Department of Education.

The need of a new building or an annex to the old building became so evident that those in charge of the administration of school affairs petitioned the city government to make this necessary provision. Serious consideration was given the proposition but not until 1924 did the city feel that it was in a position to undertake this work. Accordingly in December of that year by vote of the City Council an appropriation was made "to build and equip an annex to the High School." Work was begun as soon as weather conditions would



Gymnasium

permit, the corner stone laid in May and the building, in part, ready for occupancy on Sept. 28.

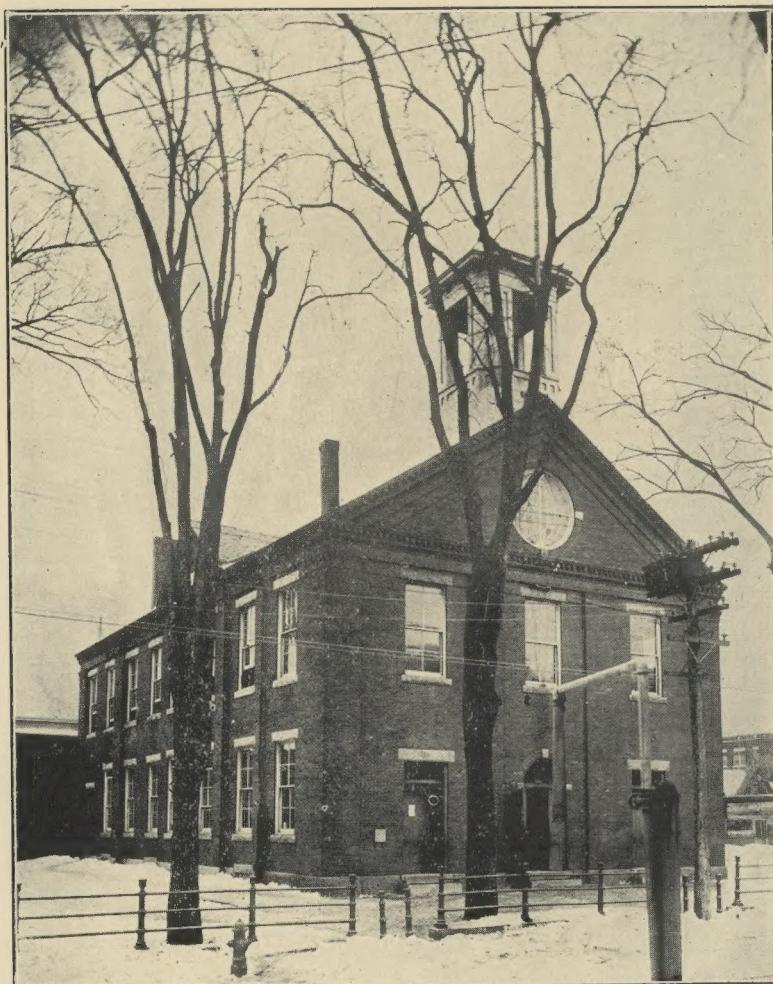
This new building, modern in structure and well equipped is the equal of any High School in the state. No pains were spared in working out the smallest detail to meet the state requirements of heating, lighting, ventilating and fire prevention; the object of the committee being to give to the future generation a new structure so tied in with the old as to conserve its identity, preserve its lines and to provide for the teaching of those courses of study now offered and also make provision for such courses as may be offered in the immediate future or as the change of time may demand.

The committee was ever mindful of its obligation to the citizens of Biddeford and no attempt has been made to construct an elaborate building but one substantial in structure, pleasing in appearance and adequate to the needs of years to come.

The citizens of Biddeford have just cause to feel proud of this year's achievement in seeing this work brought to a satisfactory close knowing that provision has been made to secure for their children that which is the birthright of every American child — an opportunity to secure an education in a Free High School.

C. A. WEED,

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



*High School — Washington Street
in 1848*

